United Nations E/CN.17/IPM/2005/L.2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
4 March 2005

Original: English

Commission on Sustainable Development
Intergovernmental preparatory meeting
28 February-4 March 2005
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the report of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting

Draft report of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting

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I. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was held in New York from 28 February to 4 March 2005 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003. The intergovernmental preparatory meeting held 11 meetings. Parallel interactive discussions on the themes of water, sanitation and human settlements were held at the 3rd, 4th, and 6th to 8th meetings, from 1 to 3 March 2005.

2. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development, John W. Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda), who made an introductory statement.

3. The Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Secretariat introduced the reports of the Secretary-General on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on freshwater management (E/CN.17/2005/2), sanitation (E/CN.17/2005/3) and human settlements (E/CN.17/2005/4).

B. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the intergovernmental preparatory meeting adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.17/IPM/2005/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation:
   (a) Water;
   (b) Sanitation;
   (c) Human settlements.
3. Other matters.
4. Adoption of the report of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting.

C. Proceedings of the session

5. Also at its 1st meeting, representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the representative of the New York Office of the regional commissions (on behalf of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), made statements presenting the outcomes of their deliberations related to policy options and possible actions to address region-specific obstacles and constraints in meeting commitments related to the thematic cluster on water, sanitation and human settlements. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

6. At the same meeting, representatives of the various intersessional meetings held since the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development presented the outcomes of those meetings that are of direct relevance to the discussions on water, sanitation and human settlements, together with the related policy options and possible actions to meet commitments related to the thematic cluster on water, sanitation and human settlements. The Minister of Prevention, Public Hygiene and Sanitation of Senegal spoke on the outcome of the Global Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Forum, held in Dakar from 29 November to 3 December 2004. The Minister of State for Water of Uganda presented the outcome of the International Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management, held in Tokyo, from 6 to 9 December 2004, and the fifth ordinary session of the African Ministers' Council on Water, held in November 2004. The Minister of Housing of Spain spoke on the World Urban Forum held in Barcelona, Spain, from 13 to 17 September 2004. The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden spoke on the Stockholm Water Week held in Stockholm, from 16 to 20 August 2004.

7. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 February, the Commission heard presentations from the representatives of major groups on an outline of their views on policy options and possible actions relevant to the themes of water, sanitation and human settlements, as contained in document E/CN.17/2005/5 entitled "Major groups' priorities for action in water, sanitation and human settlements". The presentations were made by representatives of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, on behalf of the farmers group, the International Council for Science, on behalf of the scientific and technological communities group, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, on behalf of the business and industry group, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, on behalf of the workers and trade unions group, United Cities and Local Governments, an organization representing the local authorities group, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, on behalf of the non-governmental organizations group, the Tebtebba Foundation, on behalf of the indigenous peoples group, the Commission on Sustainable Development Youth Caucus Coordinator, on behalf of the children and youth group, and the Women's Environment and Development Organization, on behalf of the women's group.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission held an introductory panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the themes of water and sanitation. The panellists were Albert Wright, the co-chairman of the Millennium Project Task Force on Water and Sanitation, Carmen Arevalo-Correa, the Vice-Minister of Environment of Colombia, and Nafisa Barot, the Executive Trustee of Utthan, a non-governmental organization in India.

9. At its 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission held an introductory panel discussion on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation on the theme of human settlements. The panellists were: Maria Antonio Trujillo, Minister of Housing, Spain; Silvia Andere, Public Administrator in the Municipal Urbanization Corporation of Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Sylvia Martinez, Senior Adviser with the United States Federal Housing Finance Board; and Elliott Sclar, co-coordinator of the Millennium Project Task Force 8 and Professor of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at Columbia University, United States of America.

10. At its 3rd to 7th meetings, from 1 to 3 March, the Commission held interactive parallel discussions on water, sanitation and human settlements. The themes of the discussions on water focused on providing access to safe drinking water in urban and rural areas; preparing plans for integrated water resources management and creating an appropriate institutional and policy framework; enhancing water use efficiency and managing competing uses; water quality, ecosystem management and disaster prevention; strengthening monitoring and evaluation programmes; and securing finance for water-related investments.

11. The themes of the discussion on sanitation focused on providing access to adequate sanitation in urban and rural areas; managing wastewater and strengthening monitoring systems; and capacity and financing requirements for meeting the sanitation targets set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

12. The themes of the discussion on human settlements focused on providing improved housing and associated services to the urban poor; creating jobs and promoting local entrepreneurship; and developing finance institutions and financial products suitable to the financial needs of the urban poor.

13. At its 8th meeting, on 3 March, the Commission focused on the integration between the themes of water and sanitation, with the broad topics of creating incentives for effective public-private partnerships in managing water and sanitation and involving small-scale providers in the provision of water and sanitation services at the community level.

14. At its 9th meeting, on 3 March, the Commission focused on the interlinkages and cross-cutting issues among the three themes of water, sanitation and human settlements, with the broad topics of policy options and possible actions for mainstreaming gender in the management of water, sanitation and human settlements, creating an enabling environment for communities and local authorities to manage water, sanitation and housing services; and integrating housing, water and sanitation services into wider urban planning.

D. Attendance

15. The intergovernmental preparatory meeting was attended by representatives of ___ States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers of other States Members of the United Nations and the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, and observers for intergovernmental organizations and major groups also attended.

E. Documentation

16. The intergovernmental preparatory meeting had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on freshwater management: policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation (E/CN.17/2005/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on sanitation: policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation (E/CN.17/2005/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on human settlements: policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation (E/CN.17/2005/4);

(d) Major groups' priorities for action in water, sanitation and human settlements (E/CN.17/2005/5);

(e) Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/CN.17/IPM/2005/L.1).

II. Chairman's summary of the interactive discussions

[TO BE SUBMITTED]

III. Adoption of the report of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting

17. At its 11th meeting, on 4 March 2005, the Commission had before it the draft report of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting, as contained in document E/CN.17/IPM/2005/L.2, as well as the Chairman's summary of the interactive discussions.

18. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the report and took note of the Chairman's summary for transmittal to the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 2005.

Annex

List of participants

[TO BE SUBMITTED]